

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124559
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSAE-00
PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 AGRE-00 OIC-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /124 R

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-----117906 162241Z /61
O 162057Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 124559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EAID, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP GC - GUIDANCE ON SUDANO-SAHELIAN INSTITU-
TIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) NAIROBI 7195; (B) NAIROBI 7038

1. SUMMARY OF EXDIR TOLBA'S MAY 10 REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE
SUDANO-SAHELIAN INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FAILED TO REVEAL
WHETHER FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF SAHEL COUNTRY ATTITUDES AND
THE RELATIONSHIP OF ALTERNATIVES TO EXISTING CLISS MECHAN-
ISM FOR SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WERE ADDRESSED AND RE-
SOLVED.

2. DEPARTMENT AND AID CONSULTATIONS REVEAL SHARED VIEW
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THAT ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS MUST NOT RPT NOT CONFUSE AND
FRAGMENT EXISTING MULTI-DONOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THE
SAHEL, OR DIMINISH VIABILITY OF PRESENT RECIPIENT NATION
INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE (I.E., CLISS). FURTHER, WE
ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF STRONG,
UNITED AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ANY ALTERNATIVE UNEP-GC MAY REC-
COMMEND, OVERALL UNEP IMAGE AND EFFECTIVENESS COULD BE

DAMAGED. IT IS VITAL THAT SAHEL COUNTRY ENDORSEMENT IS ASSURED SINCE THEY WILL BE MOST AFFECTED BY ANY UNEP-GC ACTIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. USDEL SHOULD CONSULT CLOSELY WITH FRENCH AND FRG WHICH ARE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM--ALSO SENEGAL WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, MAY BE ONLY SAHEL COUNTRY REPRESENTED AT UNEP-GC.

4. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT IN ABSENCE OF DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR ANY OF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES BY THE AFRICAN STATES AND THE SAHEL DONORS THAT IS NOT MANIFEST HERE, USDEL SHOULD WORK TO GET POSTPONEMENT OF ANY DECISION AT PRESENT SESSION. REGARDLESS, DELEGATION SHOULD STATE VIEW THAT CLEAR AND EFFICIENT INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS ARE THE KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM, AND WE ALL SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT ANY NEW PROPOSALS HAVE NECESSARY DEPTH OF ANALYSIS AND SUPPORT REQUIRED TO IMPROVE SITUATION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR SAHEL WHERE A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORT IS JUST GETTING LAUNCHED, AND WHERE WE MUST THEREFORE AVOID ANY PRECIPITIOUS ACTION WHICH WILL EITHER IMPACT ADVERSELY ON SAHEL PROGRAM OR UNEP EFFORTS TOWARD COORDINATION OF A WORLDWIDE DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

5. IF REQUIRED, USDEL MIGHT REMIND UNEP EXDIR PRIVATELY
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THAT U.S. HAS, FROM VERY START OF CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, ADVOCATED CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEP AND SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; AND HAS CONSISTENTLY VOICED CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF INTEGRATION OF SAHEL PROGRAM EXPERIENCE AND SAHELIAN STATES (CLISS) INTO UNEP PLANNING SINCE, EVENTUALLY, THIS RELATIONSHIP MUST BE ADDRESSED AND RESOLVED. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ON THIS ISSUE MAY BE AT HAND. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAHEL, SOIL CONSERVATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE124559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BLLONG:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780207-0072
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780553/aaaabsoa.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 303d3e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NAIROBI 7195, 78 NAIROBI 7038
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2674680
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNEP GC - GUIDANCE ON SUDANO-SAHELIAN INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
TAGS: SENV, EAID, UNEP, CLISS
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/303d3e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014